

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A playlist generator apparatus comprising:

a first selector device that is configured to access and search [[a]] at least one database source of material and to provide therefrom a first subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material at a first hierarchical level, based on a first set of parameters corresponding to a first set of user preferences, further wherein the first selector device is configured to access and search available database sources of material on a periodic basis to maintain the first subset of identifications of items up to date, and

a second selector device operatively coupled to the first selector device, wherein the second selector device that is configured to search the first subset of identifications at a subsequent hierarchical level based on a second set of parameters corresponding to a second set of user preferences, and to provide therefrom a second subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material, wherein the second subset corresponds to a playlist that is adapted for use by a rendering device for a facilitates subsequent rendering of the items identified in the second subset.

2. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the first set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences includes time-independent user preferences, and

the second set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences includes user preferences at a particular time.

3. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the first set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences includes event-independent user preferences, and

the second set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences ~~includes~~ user preferences based upon an occurrence of an event.

4. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences ~~includes~~ general user preferences, wherein the general user preferences include long-term, relatively constant preferences, and

the second set of parameters comprise parameters corresponding to user preferences ~~includes~~ specific user preferences, wherein the specific user preferences include dynamic time-dependent or event-dependent entertainment preferences.

5. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the database source of material includes one or more Internet web-sites.

6. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, further including non-volatile memory that is configured to store the first subset of identifications, and wherein

the second selector device is further configured to search the first subset of identifications at the subsequent hierarchial level, based on a third set of parameters corresponding to a third set of user preferences, and to provide therefrom a third subset of identifications of items within the database source of material, ~~to form~~ wherein the third subset corresponds to another playlist that is adapted for use by a rendering device for a ~~facilitates~~ subsequent rendering of the items identified in the third subset.

7. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first set of ~~user preferences~~ parameters includes one or more parameters for searching the database source of material based on a frequency of access of the items within the database source of material, and

the first selector device is further configured to determine a measure of requests

for each item within the database source of material by a plurality of users, and to provide therefrom the first subset of identifications of items, based on the measure of requests for each item.

8. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 7, wherein the first selector device is further configured to provide the first subset of identifiers based on a set of parameters corresponding to general user preferences, and wherein the second set of parameters corresponds to user preferences includes ~~a set of~~ specific user preferences.

9. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 7, wherein the first selector device is further configured to provide the first subset of identifiers based on a set of parameters corresponding to general user preferences, and the second set of parameters corresponding to user preferences ~~includes a set of~~ preferences based upon a particular event.

10. (currently amended) The playlist generator apparatus of claim 7, further including non-volatile memory that is configured to store the first subset of identifications, ~~and wherein~~ the second selector device is further configured to search the first subset of identifications at the subsequent hierarchial level, based on a third set of parameters corresponding to a third set of user preferences, and to provide therefrom a third subset of identifications of items within the database source of material, ~~to form wherein the third subset corresponds to~~ another playlist that is adapted for use by a rendering device for a ~~facilitates~~ subsequent rendering of the items identified in the third subset.

11. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a playlist generator apparatus that is configured to provide a set of identifications of select items within [[a]] at least one database source of material, and

a rendering device, operably coupled to the playlist generator apparatus, ~~that~~ wherein the rendering device is configured to render the select items in response to the set of identifications of the select items;

wherein

the playlist generator apparatus includes:

a first selector device that is configured to access and search the at least one database source of material and to provide therefrom a first subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material at a first hierarchial level, based on a first set of parameters corresponding to a first set of user preferences, further wherein the first selector device is configured to access and search available database sources of material on a periodic basis to maintain the first subset of identifications of items up to date, and

a second selector device operatively coupled to the first selector device, wherein the second selector device ~~that~~ is configured to search the first subset of identifications at a subsequent hierarchial level based on a second set of parameters corresponding to a second set of user preferences, and to provide therefrom the set of identifications of the select items.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein

the first set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to time-independent user preferences, and

the second set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to user preferences at a particular time.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein

the database source of material includes one or more Internet web-sites.

14. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, further including
non-volatile memory that is configured to store the first subset of identifications,
wherein the second selector device is operatively coupled to the non-volatile memory to
facilitate generation of multiple sets of identifications of select items at the subsequent
hierarchical level based on the first subset of identifications at the first hierarchial level.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein
the first set of parameters includes one or more parameters for searching the
database source of material based on a frequency of access of the items within the
database source of material, and
the first selector device is further configured to determine a measure of requests
for each item within the database source of material by a plurality of users, and to
provide therefrom the first subset of identifications of items, based on the measure of
requests for each item.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein
the first selector is further configured to provide the first subset of identifiers
based on a set of parameters corresponding to general user preferences, and
wherein the second set of parameters includes corresponds to a set of specific
user preferences.

17. (currently amended) A method of generating a playlist, comprising:
accessing and searching [[a]] at least one database source of material at a first
hierarchical level based on a first set of parameters corresponding to a first set of user
preferences to provide thereby a first subset of identifications of items within the at least
one database source of material, wherein accessing and searching further include
accessing and searching available database sources of material on a periodic basis to
maintain the first subset of identifications of items up to date, and

generating the playlist from the first subset of identifications of items, wherein generating includes searching the first subset of identifications at a subsequent hierarchical level based on a second set of parameters corresponding to a second set of user preferences, and to provide therefrom a second subset of identifications of items within the at least one database source of material, wherein the second subset corresponds to the playlist that is adapted for use by a rendering device for a subsequent rendering of the items identified in the second subset.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein

the first set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to substantially time-invariant user preferences, and

the second set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to user preferences at a particular time.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein

the first set of parameters includes one or more parameters for searching the database source of material based on accesses to the items within the database source of material, and

searching the database source of material further includes
determining a frequency of access of each of a plurality of items within the database source of material, and

selecting the identifications of items for inclusion in the first subset of identifications based at least in part on the frequency of access of each of the plurality of items.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein
selecting the identifications of items for inclusion in the first subset is also based
on parameters corresponding to substantially time-invariant user preferences, and
the second set of parameters includes parameters corresponding to user
preferences at a particular time.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further including
storing the first subset of identifications, and
generating another playlist from the stored first subset of identifications of items,
based on a further set of parameters.